



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families

What's at Stake in 2008--Washington Governor's race

The Governor of Washington has a unique influence over the well being of children.

Health care for every child

In 2007, our state's legislators made a bi-partisan commitment to ensure every child has health coverage by 2010. You can read stories of families who have gained health care, and the families who are still waiting, in the Children's Alliance [Cover Every Child by 2010 storybook](#). To keep the promise to cover every child by 2010, next year the Governor and legislators must come to agreement on funding to implement the next phase of the Cover All Kids law. Success depends on the Governor's commitment. Washington's Governor also plays an important role in lobbying the federal government for more support for children's health.

Quality child care and early learning

In recent years, our state has made a commitment to providing young children and their parents with opportunities to learn, grow, and arrive at school ready to succeed. The latest research shows that what happens to kids in their early years shapes the rest of their lives. However, much of the promise of supporting children in their earliest learning years remains unfulfilled. Next year and beyond, Washington's Governor must propose substantial new investments in young children, such as quality child care, home visiting, pre-school, and support to early childhood teachers. Only through strong leadership from our Governor will all children be prepared for success in school and in life.

Childhood hunger

In our state of plenty, 300,000 children live in families who struggle to provide three full meals a day. Washington continues to have a much higher than average number of hungry children. Ending childhood hunger is possible and the Children's Alliance has a [10-point plan](#) that spells out how. Washington's Governor has control over much of the policies and funding that can help each and child in the state have three nutritious meals every day.

Foster care

All foster kids should be getting what they need to lead successful adult lives. Today, they aren't. African American and Native American children are particularly poorly served by our child welfare system—they end up in foster care more often and stay longer once they're there, despite the fact that their families have no higher rates of abuse or neglect than white families. Washington's Governor has the power to propose and pursue the investments that will reform our foster care system and end disparities faced by children of color.

TAKE ACTION TODAY: [SIGN THE PETITION](#)